

REMARKS

Claims 12-14 and 25-30 are pending.

Claims 25-30 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Boutet (US Patent No. 5,795,708).

Changes in the Claims:

Claims 25-30 have been cancelled.

Rejection under 35 USC §102(b) – claims 25-30

Claims 25-30 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Boutet (US Patent No. 5,795,708). This rejection is now moot since claims 25-30 are cancelled.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that the amended claims are now in proper form, and that the amended claims all define patentable subject matter over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Request for allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

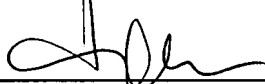
If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Extension of Time

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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